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Ministry of Education

FORT LANGLEY STUDENTS SAFER THANKS TO SEISMIC UPGRADES

LANGLEY – The Province has approved a $2.5-million seismic upgrade to make Fort Langley elementary students and staff safer, Fort Langley-Aldergrove MLA Rich Coleman announced today.

"This is the second seismic project approved this summer for the Langley school district," said Coleman. "We are working to provide all students in the district a high-quality education in a safe and healthy learning environment."

Fort Langley elementary school was originally built in 1957 with several subsequent additions. The seismic work on the school is scheduled to occur over 14 months, from July 2007 to August 2008. The improvements include:

- improving connections between the roof, walls and foundations;
- reinforcing the concrete masonry walls and foundations;
- adding plywood to strengthen wood frame walls; and
- reinforcing the existing outdoor covered play area.

"Safety is a top priority for our government, and we want all students, staff and community members to feel safe and comfortable in their schools," said Education Minister Shirley Bond. "The work on this school is part of a $1.5-billion program to seismically upgrade B.C. schools – the most comprehensive seismic plan ever by a B.C. government."

"It is great news to hear the Province has signed an agreement and this project is moving ahead," said board chair Steve Burton. "These seismic upgrades will make Fort Langley elementary a safer place for students to excel and achieve their goals."

Since 2001, the Province has invested $14.9 million in capital funding in the Langley school district for two schools and four school additions, including the construction of the new R.C. Garnett Elementary Demonstration School.

During the same period, the Province has spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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